

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 15 as follows:*

Claim 3, line 2, after "hydrophilic" insert -- absorbent --.

Claim 4, line 2, after "hydrophilic" insert -- absorbent --.

7. (Thrice amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the liquid-pervious surface layer comprises a laminate of a first liquid-pervious, hydrophobic material layer arranged closest to the absorbent body, and a second liquid-pervious, hydrophilic absorbent material layer, of substantially the same extension as the wetting region of the article, arranged outside the first material layer and intended to bear on the body of the user in the wetting region during use.

8. (Thrice amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the liquid-pervious surface layer comprises a laminate of the first liquid-pervious, hydrophobic material layer, and a second liquid-pervious, hydrophilic absorbent material layer arranged closest to the absorbent body, inside the first material layer, wherein the hydrophobic material layer exhibits an opening, of substantially the same extension as the wetting region of the article, through which the hydrophilic-layer is exposed.

9. (Twice amended) Absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic absorbent material in the liquid-pervious surface layer is constituted of a hydrophobic material which has been rendered hydrophilic.